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The Rural Canadian.

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AGRICULTURAL HERESY.

That able journal, the *Farmers' Review* of Chicago, has given to the world an editorial paragraph which will probably be extensively quoted, the influence of which we should like to counteract. It reads as follows:—

"Mr. Charles A. Green refers to the impossibility of eradicating the Canada thistle by hoeing or cultivating among growing crops; and strikes the keynote for success by stating that the 'only and sure method is early and often ploughing during the entire summer;' in other words, a thorough system of summer fallowing. However averse the average farmer may be to this old-time mode, it is nevertheless the one which must eventually be practised ere we even check the alarming advance of this greatest of all weed pests, and it is gratifying to know that many are accepting this as an established fact."

That a thorough system of summer fallowing such as is described in the foregoing quotation will eradicate the thistle is quite true, but that this is "the only and sure method" is a great mistake. There is a far more excellent way of eradicating the thistle, and that is by means of clovering. Sow clover, without a grain crop, on thistley land, well prepared by late fall ploughing; run the moving machine over the ground before the thistles bloom; let the aftermath grow, which it will do faster than the thistles; mow again, in due time; repeat the process the second year; and you may say "good-bye" to the thistles. Is not this a far easier plan than "early and often ploughing during the entire summer?" The field thus worked yields no crop, whereas on the clover method there is a crop of hay to pay for the labour, while the land which has been two seasons in clover is left in prime condition for a wheat or any other grain crop. Summer fallowing is a relic of old foggy farming. It is a fight with nature, which aims to carpet the surface with some kind of a green growth. Let that green growth be clover, and the double work of cleaning and enriching the land will be most satisfactorily and thoroughly done.

AIM HIGHER.

Too many people are content with commonplace mediocrity, instead of trying to excel. This is as true of farmers as of any other class, perhaps more so. It is a common copy-book motto in our schools that "Emulation is a noble passion." We would amend it by saying, "Excellence is a noble aim." To do our best every time, to get the best, to disseminate the best, to get rid of inferiority, to advance on mediocrity,—these should be constant endeavours with us all, and especially with farmers. First-class products are always marketable, even when common articles are a drag. The following extract from the *Iowa Register* is apropos of this important subject:—

"It is no difference whether the farmer is breeding fine stock, keeping dairy cows, or devot-

ing his farm to some varieties of grains, he should aim to improve. Starting with the highest type of stock or seed, it should be his constant effort to improve upon whatever he produces every year. He should establish a pretty high ideal, and select every year more perfect specimens of stock and grain. There is no branch of agriculture perfect yet, and the highest specimens of it always pay the best. Even with grain and vegetables there is a wide field for improvement, and he who is able to put on the market a better article than any of his neighbours, can always command a much higher price. It is easy to get a good name, and men will travel far to obtain their seed of him at greatly enhanced prices. It pays largely to have superior products. This can be obtained at little comparative cost, even in the breeding of fine stock. The best class of male animals, no matter how high the price, cost but little in comparison to the value of his produce. Aim higher in all departments of the farm. No matter how insignificant the item raised, let it be of a superior quality of its kind. Nowhere is there more room for improvement than in all departments of the farm."

PLOUGHING BY STEAM.

We have often wondered that, in this progressive country and age, all our ploughing is done by horse-labour, whereas in Great Britain steam is extensively utilized as a power to "speed the plough." Even in the United States, ploughing by steam is almost unknown. In two instances, however, something has been done in this line, during the present season, as will be seen by the following extracts from American papers:—

The *Drainage and Farm Journal* says that "Mr. Samuel Bergen, of Franklin, Ind., has a traction engine with which he draws his clay from the bank (a distance of two or three hundred yards) to the pit, and with the same engine runs his tile mill. He concluded this spring that he would try the practicability of ploughing with it, and attached to it two ordinary turning ploughs, and succeeded admirably in breaking four acres per day, running the ploughs a depth of seven or eight inches. The fuel cost one dollar per day. In the use of the common plough it required one man to each plough, and one to attend the engine. He says if gang-ploughs were used one man would be sufficient to attend the ploughs; the cost of fuel is much less than would be the cost of feed for horses to do a like amount. All-in-all, he is very much pleased with the result of his experiment. That we shall yet see the iron horse harnessed to do much of the ploughing, we verily believe."

The *Minneapolis Tribune* says: "Quite a large number of spectators assembled on the open space near Lake street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues south, yesterday afternoon, to witness the operation of the steam plough brought here from England. At a distance of about 850 yards apart, stood two large engines, which act either as locomotive or stationary engines. Connected with each engine is a large spool, about which is wound a steel rope, an inch in diameter and a third of a mile in length. To this rope is attached the large plough, which, by each engine in turn, is pulled to and fro across the space between the engines, cutting as it goes six neat furrows. By a simple gearing on the plough, the depth of the furrow may be made greater or less at will. The plough is a 'double ender,' and at the end of the trip no turn is necessary, the team being simply thrown over, bringing the other end, with its six sharp edges, in contact with the soil. There is also a cultivator, which is worked in a similar manner. The trial of the plough yesterday afternoon was a complete success. The farmers present said they never saw such ploughing, or

expected to. Those who had the eyes of machinists thought they had never seen such nice adjustment of cog and wheel.

"After playing across the field for an hour or more, to the satisfaction and delight of those present, the two engines steamed down to the railroad yard, preparatory to being shipped. They go to the broad fields of Dakota, where contracts are to be made for ploughing immense tracts of land at the rate of three dollars per acre."

CLEAN UP!

The following brief article, from the *Massachusetts Plowman*, is worthy of being printed in large type and placarded in every door-yard and barn-yard throughout the civilized world. We gladly do our best to give it publicity, by quoting it in the most conspicuous part of the RURAL CANADIAN:

"Disease comes mainly from below. This is the season for it. The heat of the summer sun causes fermentation, noxious gases are engendered, the air is contaminated, we inhale it, our blood is poisoned, and then comes on fever, diphtheria, death. We call it a visitation of Providence. It is. But it is made through a violation of hygienic law. The air we breathe, the water we drink, or the food we eat is poisoned, and hence the damage. It is a very great mistake to suppose the Pontine marshes are alone malarious. Wherever the summer sun shines on decaying substances; wherever animal or vegetable matter is decomposing, there is malaria. Our State, our homes, our rooms are full of it, and the wonder is not that we suffer so much, but that we live at all under its baleful influence."

"Over and over again the cause of typhoid fever, cholera and diphtheria has been shown to be foul air, or water, rendered so by the neglect of cleanliness. Sometimes whole families, or schools, or colleges are suddenly visited by one of the above-named diseases; prayers are offered, the healthfulness of the place is insisted on, the cause of the scourge is 'an inscrutable Providence.' This, too, among those called 'intelligent people.' What is the cause? Contaminated water; contaminated air! Some sewage is exposed to the sun; some well or spring or fountain is infected by the proximity of a cesspool; some cellar, some closet, some bin or barrel is uncleansed. Some sink drain, or some duck pond, or some court or stable generates malaria. That is the secret. Why, even a tub of decaying apples, or of rancid lard, or oleomargarine, is enough, sometimes, to poison a whole family. Hence let me kindly say: If you desire exemption from these summer diseases, clean up, and keep cleaned up!

"Cover up your sink drains; fill up your stagnant pools; clear out the old rubbish from your cellars; ventilate your closets; cleanse your stables; remove decaying vegetables from your pantry, and see to it that your wells are free from impure water, leaking in from other sources; encourage your neighbours to do the same, for your disease, you know, comes now and then from over the fence. Let cleanliness reign around and through and through your home."

The following lots were offered at auction in front of the City Hall, Guelph, at noon on the 8th inst., there being a large attendance of buyers present: The McLagan farm, Luther, better known as the Wardrope farm, was sold by Mr. Jas. Taylor, auctioneer, to Mr. Nelson, of Dundalk, for the sum of \$7,700. This property comprises 200 hundred acres, and the figure realized is a good one. Mr. W. S. G. Knowles, auctioneer, sold the Nesbitt farm, Guelph township, comprising 250 acres, to John Leggett, Halton, for \$9,000.